

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A communication system that transmits electronic mail among multiple ~~sender~~Sender and ~~recipient~~Recipient terminals and which both uses and augments the Internet, comprising:

~~a postal~~an ePostal server and ~~postal~~ePostal server software,

links connecting the ~~sender~~Sender and ~~recipient~~Recipient terminals and said ~~postal~~ePostal server and ~~postal~~ePostal server software to the Internet, and

~~sender~~Sender ePostal software

(i) operable on at least the ~~sender~~Sender terminal that and

(ii) operable with conventional electronic mail application software also operating on the Sender terminal to

(iii) selectively ~~connects~~ provide access by the ~~sender~~Sender terminal and said Sender to the ~~postal~~ePostal server via the internet and said sender link, software to said ePostal server and ePostal server software for managing and processing the electronic mail transmitted from the Sender terminal in order to provide the communication system's premium mail services to the electronic mail, and

~~said postal server software providing premium mail services, and said sender terminal and software providing a selection of said premium services to be performed with respect to the transmitted electronic mail~~

(iv) begin processing of said premium mail services to the electronic mail.

2. (currently amended) A communications system according to claim 1 further comprising ~~recipient~~Recipient ePostal software

(i) ~~operable at least on said recipient~~the Recipient terminal, and

(ii) ~~operable with conventional electronic email application software also operating on the Recipient terminal, that to~~

(iii) ~~processes said process the electronic mail, received from transmitted by the Sender terminal, managed and processed by said postalePostal server and postalePostal-server software, and received by the Recipient terminal via the internetInternet and said recipientRecipient link in order to provide said premium mail services to the electronic mail.~~

3. (currently amended) The communication system according to claim 2 wherein at least one of said ~~sender~~Sender and ~~recipient~~Recipient ePostal software is ~~application software stored at said sender~~the Sender and ~~recipient~~Recipient terminals.

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) The communication system according to claim 2 wherein at least one of said ~~sender~~Sender and ~~recipient~~Recipient ePostal software is stored and accessible to the ~~sender~~Sender and/or ~~recipient~~Recipient at said ~~postalePostal~~Postal server.

6. (currently amended) The communication system according to claim 2 wherein said links comprise a network interconnecting said the multiple ~~said~~ terminals

to the Internet, at least one of said ~~ePostal sender~~Sender, ~~recipient~~Recipient and ~~postal server~~ software is stored and/or accessible to the ~~sender~~Sender and/or ~~recipient~~Recipient at said network.

7. (currently amended) The communication system according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2 ~~further comprising wherein said Sender ePostal software and ePostal server software include payment software operable by at least said sender terminal and software and said postal server and postal server software to authorize and account for payment for use of said postal server and software~~ the communication system.

8. (currently amended) The communication system according to claim 7 wherein said Sender and Recipient ePostal software and said ePostal server software include said payment software ~~accounts to account~~ for incentive credits for a recipient terminal in response to the opening of selected the electronic mail at said the ~~recipient~~Recipient terminal.

9. (currently amended) The communication system according to claim 7 wherein said premium services include optional selectable premium services and said payment software collects accounts for the collection of an additional fee in response to the sender said Sender ePostal software selection of one or more of said optional premium services of said postal server and postal server software.

10. (currently amended) The communication system according to claim 1 wherein said connecting links between the ~~internet~~Internet and any of said ~~the~~ ~~sender~~Sender terminal, ~~recipient~~Recipient terminal, and ~~postal~~Postal server includes a telecommunications link.

11. (currently amended) The communication system according to claim 1 wherein said connecting links between the ~~internet~~Internet and any of said ~~the sender~~Sender terminal, ~~recipient~~Recipient terminal, and ~~postal~~Postal server includes a link selected from the group consisting of: ISP, intranet, extranet, LAN, dial up, DSL, cable, satellite, cell, wireless, ~~physical delivery~~ and combinations thereof.

12. (currently amended) The communication system according to claim 1 wherein said premium services for the electronic mail are selected from the group consisting of: identification of ~~said sender~~ the Sender; certification of the identity of the entity operating ~~said sender~~ the Sender terminal; prioritization of the sent and received electronic mail; screening of the electronic mail for technical risks; screening of the electronic mail for content risks; encryption of the electronic mail; notification to ~~sender~~ the Sender of receipt of the electronic mail; notification to ~~sender~~ the Sender of opening of the electronic mail; pre-paid replies for ~~recipient~~ the Recipient to respond to ~~sender~~ the Sender through the ~~postal server~~ the communication system; ~~hard copy delivery of mail~~; customized incentives for ~~recipients~~ the Recipients to open the electronic mail; verifiable date and time stamp of ~~postal~~ ePostal server processing; customized verification of ~~decrypted content of the electronic mail~~; creation of [[a]] secure holding of the electronic mail at said the Sender, Recipient and postal Postal server; and payment and accounting for said premium electronic mail services; and combinations thereof.

13. (currently amended) The communication system according to claim 12 where said prioritization is a differentiation between the electronic mail processed by ~~said postal server and postal server software~~ the communication system and ~~other conventional~~ electronic mail carried in the Internet.

14.(currently amended) The communication system according to claim 12 wherein said prioritization comprises a differentiation among the electronic mail processed by ~~said postal server and postal server software~~ the communication system.

15.(currently amended) The communications system according to claim 1 wherein ~~said sender~~ the Sender and ~~recipient~~ Recipient terminals and the Internet can have different combinations of operating systems and ~~Internet~~ electronic mail application software, and wherein ~~the senders~~ said Sender and ~~recipients~~ Recipient ePostal software are adapted to interface across said different combinations ~~throughwith the postal~~ said ePostal server and ePostal server software.

16.(currently amended) A method of communication for electronic mail among multiple ~~sender~~ Sender and ~~receiver~~ Recipient terminals that both uses and augments the Internet, comprising:

providing an ePostal server and ePostal server software;

linking the sender Sender and ~~receiver~~ Recipient terminals to the Internet~~[[,]]~~ and said ePostal server and ePostal server software;

providing Sender ePostal software

(i) operating on the Sender terminal, and

(ii) operating with conventional electronic mail application software also operating on the Sender terminal,

(iii) to provide selectively access by the Sender terminal and said Sender ePostal software to said ePostal server and ePostal server software for managing and processing the electronic mail transmitted from the Sender terminal in order to provide

the communication system's said premium electronic mail services to the electronic mail, and

(iv) to begin processing of said premium mail services to the electronic mail, selection by the sender of communications with the recipient using an electronic postal service.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

providing Recipient ePostal software:

(i) operable on the Recipient terminal, and

(ii) operating with conventional electronic mail application software also operating on the Recipient terminal,

(iii) for processing the electronic mail, transmitted by the Sender terminal, managed and processed by said ePostal server and ePostal server software, and received by the Recipient terminal via the Internet and said Recipient link, in order to provide said premium mail services to the electronic mail. interaction by the recipient with said electronic postal service in response to said selection or email communication by the sender.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 where said linking includes telecommunicating.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein said linking includes networking multiple ones of the ~~sender~~Sender or recipient and Recipient terminals.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein said ~~selective postal services include~~ Sender ePostal software and said ePostal server software processing includes payment and accounting services for at least a portion of said premium ~~postal~~ mail services.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said payment and accounting services ~~provide~~ account for incentives to a user of the ~~recipient~~ Recipient terminal for opening of said ~~interacting the~~ electronic mail at the Recipient terminal.